South 40

Alfalfa fall cutting

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Last week I looked at a number of alfalfa fields. There has been significant growth in many fields.

The rule of thumb for fall cutting is to not harvest alfalfa between September 20 and October 20. The exception is if 45 days have elapsed since it was last cut. For example, if the last cutting was made August 15, as of October 1 the alfalfa will have made 45 days of regrowth. In this case, go ahead and harvest even though October 1 is within the normal "don't cut" period.

If the alfalfa has made only minimal regrowth since the last cutting due to drought, it will be best to not mow or graze it until after October 20 this particular season.

Some alfalfa fields have a good stand of summer grasses competing with the alfalfa. A shot of the appropriate herbicide after the second cutting would likely have eliminated this competition.

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Several people have asked when re-certification for pesticide applicators would be held. We try to hold these programs after the harvest season is pretty well over. This year we will hold them November 15, 7:30 p.m.; and November 16, 9:30 a.m., in the auditorium of the District Extension Office on Court Street.

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There is a new growth hormone on the market called STEER-OID. It is an implant for steers and identical to Synovex-S.

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Soil samples are being returned in 7 to 10 days. The lab is currently analyzing about 300 samples a day. Fall is an ideal time to pull soil samples and get lime worked in, if necessary.

While the economic situation is rough, if a person is going to apply fertilizer and lime next year and hasn't sampled in the past two to three years, he should sample to avoid over, as well as under-application of lime or fertilizer.

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If you have corn scheduled for your farm in 1984, take a hard look at seeding rye and sod plant the corn. There is ample evidence of the value of having a mulch in a dry year. I know that insects can be a problem, but there are many good insecticides available to protect the young seedlings.

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Two important fall programs are coming up–Appomattox Dairymen's Association, 7:00 p.m., October 17; and Appomattox Cattlemen's Association, 6:30 p.m., October 18.

If you have an interest in either commodity, you need to be a participant.

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We get frequent questions in summers like '83, when Japanese beetle infestations are high, about the damage these insects have on corn. As you know, their feeding on corn silks can be heavy, even to the point of destroying all of the exterior silks.

There appears to be no damage to the corn. Actually, this insect may have a beneficial effect, since corn earworm numbers in silkless ears appear substantially reduced.

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Gypsy moth trapping was done on a limited scale in Appomattox County this summer. From six traps, nine moths were collected. None were found in the southern portion of the county.

The situation here compares with Prince Edward County - 25 traps, 62 moths; Buckingham County - 29 traps - 53 moths; Clark County - 15 traps, 4,000 moths.

We will likely see the number of Gypsy moths increase rapidly over the next several years.

Sorghum festival planned

The Clifford Ruritan Festival Committee has issued a schedule of events for their sixth annual Sorghum Festival to be held Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2.

Activities will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Old time molasses making, arts and crafts displays, food booths, cider making, bluegrass music, apple butter making and games will be continuous for the entire festival period.

Special events are the Virginia State Jousting Tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday, and drawing for door prizes at 5 p.m. Sunday.

There is no admission charge for the festival. The Clifford Ruritan Center is located 5 miles north of Amherst just off highway 151. Direction signs will be posted.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

The 4-H officer training meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 4, at 3:30 p.m. in the Appomattox Elementary School. The purpose of the training session will be to help the newly elected 4-H officers understand their duties and have a chance to practice performing their duties. Parents should plan to pick up their youngsters about 5:00 p.m.

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4-H'ers and their parents may sign up for the Virginia Hunter Safety Course which will be taught on the evenings of October 25, 26, and 27. The course covers safe handling of firearms, hunter safety, use of archery equipment, muzzle loading weapons and hunter responsibility. To sign up in advance, please call the Extension Office at 352-8244.

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Community Club 4-H meetings set for October include the 4-H Teen Leaders on Monday, October 3 at 7 p.m. in the Extension Office and 4-Leaf Clover Club on Monday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Stonewall Voting Precinct. All 4-H'ers are invited to join a community club. Details about other clubs and their meeting times is available from the Extension Office.

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A new fund raising effort for Appomattox 4-H programs is under way. Attractive bumper stickers that effectively express "I Love 4-H" in green and white are available for fifty cents each. Funds raised will be used for county 4-H programs and awards for Appomattox 4-H members.

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The Appomattox 4-H Advisory Council meets Thursday night to discuss 4-H program needs and direction for our county. The purpose of the council is to review 4-H programming efforts and provide suggestions for improvement of 4-H. Members of the Council include: Mrs. Betty Bryan, Mrs. Janice Marston, Mrs. Dora Turner, Mrs. Gaye Stevens, Mrs. Susie Krantz, Mrs. Roberta Womack, Mr. Michael Hancock, Mr. John Harrison and Mr. Dennis Torrence. Suggestions about 4-H programs may be made to any of these Council members.

ASCS today

By TOM CONRAD

Flue-Cured Tobacco Sales - Markets on the Old and Middle Belt opened the eighth week of flue-cured tobacco auctions on a strong note, but conditions weakened sharply by Thursday. According to the Federal-State Market News Service, both prices and quality were down for the week, and loan receipts were beginning to increase. Volume of sales was heavy. Based on the USDA Crop estimate, 46 percent of the 1983 Type 11 crop has been sold. Producers' sales opportunity in the belt next week (Sept. 26-29) is 27,937,000 pounds, (includes 4 markets or 3,883,000 pounds in Marketing Area C).

Gross sales by states follow:

States	Week Ending September 22, 1983 Pounds	Average	Season Through September 22, 1983 Pounds	Average
Virginia	7,468,923	$189.63	35,660,569	$170.17
North Carolina	17,120,506	181.23	93,368,380	171.35
Total	24,589,429	$181.05	129,084,949	$171.02

The weekly average of $181.05 was a decline of $2.35 from week number seven, and marks the first time this season the weekly average failed to show an increase. During the first 29 sales days last season, 157,246,000 pounds had returned $173.12 per hundred. Resales this week of 1,990,657 raised season resales to 10,780,904 pounds. So far this season, a total of 1,509,229 pounds has been reported sold non-auction, broken down as follows: Alabama 18,133; Florida 151,106; Georgia 153,563; South Carolina 70,597; and North Carolina 1,107,830 pounds.

Average prices for unripe grades of leaf and nondescript were consistently lower than last week. Losses were mainly $2 to $5 per hundred for leaf grades and up to $10 for nondescript. Several grades of cutters and lugs recorded increases of $1 to $2 over previous levels. Less tobacco sold at the practical top of $205 this week.

Quality was not as good as the previous week, despite a substantial increase in leaf (B) grades on floors. More low, poor, and nondescript tobacco was sold with less grading fair and good quality. Percentages by quality were: good 12; fair 53; low 26; and poor 4 percent. Leaf (B) sales accounted for 65 percent of weekly sales, cutters (C) 10, lugs (X) 16, and nondescript (N) 5 percent. Tobacco classed as unripe or immature increased to about 57 percent this week while mature to ripe offerings declined to 37 percent.

The Stabilization Corporation accepted 14.4 percent of gross sales for the week. For the season, 15.9 percent has been placed under loan compared to 21.3 percent during the comparable period last year.

Revival slated

Revival services at The Church of God of Prophecy, Highway 1010, Appomattox will begin Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. and at 7:30 Mon.-Sat. Evangelist will be Rev. and Mrs. Dale Wilson. Mrs. Wilson will have the children's church every night.

Everyone is invited. For more information call 352-5848.

Landowners request permission

As of Sept. 2, 1983, landowners in the Chesapeake Bay and Chowan River drainage areas had requested permission to plant a total of 192 miles of vegetative buffers along waterways in accordance with Governor Robb's Virginia Filter Strip Incentive Program.

In the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, containing Amherst, Appomattox and Campbell Counties, 3.1 miles have been approved. The Districts, along with the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation (VSWCC) and the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administered the program.

Robb announced in late April the $500,000 state program aimed at reducing the amount of harmful runoff from farmland reaching the huge water systems. About two-thirds of the state drains into these two basins considered by Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Resources, Betty J. Diener, to be environmentally sensitive.

Nearly 12,000 farmers in the watersheds who had signed up for the USDA Payment-In-Kind (PIK) and Acreage Reduction Programs (ARP) were eligible for the state-paid Virginia Filter Strip Incentive Program. Participants will be paid 10 cents per linear foot (20 cents for both sides of a waterway) to plant and maintain grass filter buffers averaging at least 20 feet wide beside streams and rivers on their farms.

Soil conservation experts consider filter strips an effective measure that anchors soil along waterways' banks and protects them from scour and erosion. By trapping eroded soil from land uphill, the strips keep sediment (the top water pollutant) out of streams and rivers.

The strips further improve water quality by filtering out herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer and microorganisms that might otherwise reach waterways. Food, cover and travelways are provided for wildlife by the buffers, as well.

The program sign-up deadline was July 15, 1983. Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which reviewed and approved most of the requests, had until August 31, 1983 to send the requests on to the VSWCC. Altogether, the state funds needed to pay for the program come to about $91,000.

VSWCC Director, B. C. Leyes, Jr., said he was "extremely pleased" with participation in the first state-paid conservation program of its kind.

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OR DONATE AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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Saturday, October 1, 1983 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wilbun's Super Market — **Triangle Plaza Shopping Center**

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Williams Store
Harvey's Market

Vera - 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Village Market

Evergreen - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Evans Store
Wade's Texaco

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